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ELLESMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for -

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1914.

To

The Chairman and Members of the

Rural District Council of Ellesmere.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for 1914 as Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ellesmere

The Rural District of Ellesmere comprises an area of 51,115 acres. The district is entirely agricultural. There are a few small villages, the largest of which is Baschurch. The District is, for the most part, undulating, but some portions are very flat. Nearly all the land is under cultivation, and the subsoil is gravel, with some clay and drift in places.

The population at the last census was 8365. It is now estimated at 8541.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. The number of deaths of Infants under 12 months belonging to the district was 9, (as against 12 in 1913, giving a rate per thousand of births of 56.25, which is decidedly lower than that of 1913, and lower than has been the case for the last six years at least.

Four deaths were caused by congenital debility due to prematurity of birth, (the same number as in 1913). Of the others, one child died of congenital specific marasmus, one of inanition and atelectasis, one of Bronchitis, one of Whooping Cough and Exhaustion, and one of Whooping Cough and Broncho-pneumonia.

VITAL STATISTICS. During the year there have been 160 births in the rural district (including 2 transferred in), giving a birth-rate of 18.73 which is lower than in 1913.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 95. To this figure must be added 12 of residents who died outside the district. The total number of deaths belonging to the district is therefore 107, and the rate is 12.52, slightly higher than last year.

The ages at which death occurred are as follows:-

Under one year.	9.
Between 2 and 5.	2
" 5 and 15.	6.
" 15 and 25.	4
" 25 and 45.	19.
" 45 and 65.	16.
From 65 upwards.	47.

Eight deaths occurred from cancer during the year 1914, as against 12 in 1913.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT. The water supply to the district of Dudleston Heath from the Liverpool Main continues to be satisfactory. To some houses this water has not been laid on owing to the fact that they already had a supply from Brynkinalt.

The public supply at Cockshutt continues to give satisfaction.

With regard to Baschurch, where the water supply is from wells, this will be rectified, (as stated in the Medical Officer's report for 1913), when the new drainage works for that district have been completed.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector have visited the Criftins, and Dudleston Heath Districts, to enquire into the question of the water supply there at the different houses, and have satisfied themselves as to its quality and quantity from both sources.

As stated in the Report for 1913 the rest of the Ellesmere Rural District is supplied by wells, and, where these are found not to be satisfactory from structural, or other points of view, they are rendered so as they come under notice during the systematic examination of premises in connection with the Housing and Town Planning Act.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. With regard to the new sewerage scheme which has been adopted for Baschurch, the necessary land has not yet been acquired, but as soon as this is done the necessary improvement in this respect will be carried out.

Negotiations are being carried on with this object in view.

Isolated houses, as a general rule, have no drains, but where unsatisfactory conditions are found, during inspections, to exist, they are remedied under powers provided by the Housing and Town Planning Act.

For the most part these improvements during 1914 have taken the form of providing more satisfactory receptacles for closets, improving drainage systems, and remedying conditions causing dampness of the interiors of houses.

Privies are the rule in houses in the district.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. No system of Public Scavenging is feasible. House refuse is disposed of satisfactorily by burning, or by burying it at a distance from the houses. During the routine inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act during 1914, two houses were found to be defective in this matter, and improvements have been effected.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL. Practically all houses in the Rural Area are supplied with out-door closets, with, for the most part moveable receptacles, which are emptied, and their contents disposed of at a distance from the dwellings. In cases where defects in the system are discovered, during the routine inspection of premises under the Housing and Town Planning Act, they are rectified. Nine such cases have been found and rectified during 1914.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT. A classified statement of the work done in this connection is appended. The Sanitary Inspector has made 98 inspections of workshops

during the year, and 59 inspections of cowsheds and milk-sellers' premises. The total number of visits made to houses in connection with the Housing and Town-Planning Act and in connection with outbreaks of Infectious Diseases is 145.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION. During the inspection of houses in the Rural area during the year 1914 none were found to be unfit for human habitation, and no rooms were found to be unfit.

35 houses were inspected under the Housing and Town-Planning Act.

None were found to be defective owing to want of cleanliness of surroundings.

In nineteen houses various defects were remedied without closing orders being necessary.

One house is still under consideration.

Deficient closet accommodation was the defect most commonly found during the routine inspections, and next to that deficient drainage and circulation of air.

The routine inspections are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who draws the attention of the Medical Officer of Health when serious defects are discovered.

This plan is found to work satisfactorily.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases occurred during 1914:-

Diphtheria.	7.
Erysipelas.	2.
Scarlet Fever.	41.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2.
Puerperal Septicaemia.	1.

Of these, some cases of Diphtheria occurred in the early part of the year in the Nesscliffe and Baschurch districts, but the number was small, (three in each district). The origin of these cases was obscure.

With regard to Scarlet Fever, the first cases to be notified in the year were two isolated ones at Criftins. In this district the disease did not spread. Nine days later a case occurred at Myddle, and after that none were notified for eight weeks, when a case occurred at Nesscliffe. This was probably contracted at School from some unsuspected case. One week later another case occurred at Nesscliffe. After an interval of nine weeks seven cases occurred in one house at Cockshutt, but, owing to strict isolation, the disease, fortunately, did not spread to any other houses. The disease, in these cases, was evidently brought from Shrewsbury.

The next outbreak of the disease occurred nine weeks after at Lower Frankton, the infection being brought by barge-children, and two weeks later cases developed at Tetchill, in two children attending the same school, (Tetchill) as those at the former village. No further cases of the disease were reported in Tetchill for ten weeks, when two more children developed it.

The second outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Nesscliffe began on September 24th (about five months after the first outbreak).

In this recurrence of the disease it was traced to Shrewsbury, where the child was eleven days before she became ill. Cases then occurred at short intervals for five weeks, at the end of which time no more were reported for one month, when six more developed at short intervals, and an isolated case appeared at Harmer Hill, (traced to Shrewsbury). To summarise, most of the cases occurred in the Nesscliffe area, where the disease took the form of two distinct epidemics, separated by an interval of 5 months. In both, the infection was probably brought from Shrewsbury.

The very mild epidemic in Lower Frankton and Tetchill was probably brought to the former village by barge-children, as they frequently land there, (it being a junction), and mix with the local children. The common School was the means of it spreading to Tetchill. The cases at Criftins, Cockshutt, Myddle, and Harmer Hill were isolated ones.

The routine practice in use on the receipt of a notification of Infectious Disease in the area is for the Medical Officer of Health to visit the house, as soon as possible, and endeavour to trace the origin of the disease, and give instructions to prevent its spread. At the same time the notification is forwarded to the Sanitary Inspector who visits the house and leaves plain printed instructions as to the prevention of its spreading. Children from the house, and, where it is semi-detached, the adjoining one are excluded from School for the period of Quarantine and the room, bedding, etc., are disinfected with Formalin at the end of the period by the Sanitary Inspector, and, after a carbolic bath and change of clothing, the child returns to School.

Where necessary, owing to the prevalence of an epidemic, the local school is closed and disinfected.

During the year 1914, 3 cases of Pulmonary and 6 of Non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the Rural Area. Suitable cases may be admitted to the Shirlett Sanatorium. Accommodation in an Isolation Hospital is badly needed for cases of Infectious Disease in the area, it being most unsatisfactory to nurse such cases at home.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS. The drainage from the Urban area is received into the brook at Tetchill.

A new sewerage disposal scheme is in process of fulfilment, and, as soon as the necessary land has been acquired, the work will be carried out.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition of the Schools in the area is satisfactory. In some cases, e.g. at Nesscliffe, the schools have been lime-washed and disinfected on the occasion of their closure owing to the prevalence of Infectious Disease.

The arrangements for the medical inspection of Schools are in the hands of the School Medical Officer.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS No carcases have been condemned for Tuberculosis in the course of the year.

MILK SUPPLY. There are no regulations in force. There are 59 cow-keepers and milksellers on the Register, and the premises are regularly inspected. 118 such inspections were made in 1914, and 6 notices were served for improvements in drainage, ventilation etc., all of which were complied with. The premises are kept in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT. There are no Factories in the district. Section 22 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1890 is not in force.

There are 10 Bakehouses on the Register. They are frequently inspected, and are in good sanitary condition. There are no underground bakehouses, no common lodging-houses or offensive trades.

During 1914, 98 inspections of workhouses, (including workshop laundries), have been made, and no written notices were found to be necessary.

In conclusion I beg to state that, for the most part, the conditions affecting the Public Health in your district are satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. L. DRAWBRIDGE.

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ELLESMERE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

- for -

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1914.

To
The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Ellesmere.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for 1914 as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Ellesmere.

The Urban District of Ellesmere is a market town situated in north-west Shropshire, occupying an area of 1204 acres. The population at the census of 1911 was 1946. It is now estimated at approximately 1967. The inhabitants, are for the most part, dependant on agriculture, there being no manufactures of any importance.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were two deaths of Infants under twelve months belonging to the district, giving a rate per thousand of births of 53.82.

One of the deaths was caused by Debility due to Prematurity of Birth, and the other to Double Pneumonia and Meningitis.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year there have been thirty four births in the district (viz:- 18 boys and 16 girls), giving a birth rate of 17.28 which is a decrease from the previous year.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 31. Of these nine were those of non-residents, which leaves twenty two belonging to the district. To these must be added five deaths of residents not registered in the district, giving a total of twenty seven. The death-rate is 13.72 per thousand, slightly higher than that of 1913. Of these 2 occurred under the age of one year, 2 between 2 and 5, none between 5 and 15, 2 between 15 and 25, 6 between 25 and 45, 6 between 45 and 65, and 9 over the age of 65. There is nothing of particular interest in the causes of the above deaths.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.

The town is supplied with water from the Liverpool main. Those of the houses to which the water is not laid on are supplied by stand pipes.

The water is adequate in quantity, and satisfactory in quality.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

A new system of Sewerage and drainage is about to be adopted. When the necessary land has been acquired the work will be carried out.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

No public scavenging is undertaken by the Sanitary Authority. Dry refuse is collected in receptacles, which are emptied periodically on to a refuse heap outside the town, and their contents burnt. No nuisance has arisen from the refuse heap during the year.

Where nuisances have arisen from the house receptacles they have been due, for the most part, to decomposable refuse being placed in them instead of being burnt. Where such cases have been found during the routine inspections, or otherwise, the tenants have been instructed with regard to the matter. But only in a small number of houses has the nuisance been found to exist.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The present system consists of flush-down closets, the flushing being either from an over-head tank or by hand, according to the type of house. Where, during the routine inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act, closets have been found to be insanitary, whether from structural defects, or through insufficient attention being paid to them by the respective tenants, improvements have been effected or the necessary advice given.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 37 inspections of workshops during the year, and 2 of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops. Tabular statements of the work done are appended.

Routine inspections of houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act have been made by the Medical Officer of Health, and, where structural defects or other unsatisfactory conditions were discovered notices were sent, either to the landlord or tenant of the house, according to the nature of the defects, which were for the most part remedied.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act 28 houses have been inspected during the year. None were found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation. No closing orders had to be made.

12 were found to have minor defects, and in 4 houses these have been remedied.

Most of the defects found were due to dampness of interiors, deficient paving and draining of yards, and unsatisfactory arrangements for the depositing of house refuse.

A tabular statement of the work is appended. One or two cases of overcrowding have come under notice during the year, and the difficulties have now been solved.

During the routine inspection of houses notes are made at the time, which are subsequently copied out in the form of permanent Records for filing.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases occurred in the district during the year 1914:-

Scarlet Fever 3. Diphtheria 1. Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1.

The three cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the same house, and the disease was contracted outside the district by one of the children. Another child and an adult subsequently developed it.

In the house where the case of Diphtheria occurred an unsatisfactory local drainage system was discovered, and this has now been done away with, and a satisfactory system substituted. The house stands in its own grounds at the outskirts of the town.

There is no isolation hospital for the district, and at present thorough isolation is very difficult to carry out. A scheme is under consideration for providing an Isolation Hospital to which cases of Infectious Disease in the district could be sent, and this will be a great boon.

When a case of Infectious Disease is notified, the Medical Officer of Health at once visits the house and investigates the origin of the complaint and gives instructions to prevent its spreading.

The Sanitary Inspector is also at once notified by the Medical Officer of Health, visits the house and leaves a copy of printed instructions. At the end of the period of infection the Sanitary Inspector personally disinfects rooms, bedding etc.

The Wem Steam Disinfecting Apparatus is available for use when required.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis Disease notified to me during the year is as follows:-

Tuberculosis of the lungs 4. (as against 3 last year).
Other forms of Tuberculosis None. (as against 2 last year).

Each case is at once visited by the Medical Officer of Health who enquires as to the probable causation of the disease, and gives instructions as to the prevention of its spreading.

When death occurs the bedding is destroyed. A County Tuberculosis Scheme will shortly be adopted, when further steps will be taken.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

The Drainage from the Urban Area is received into the brook at Tetchill.

A new Sewerage Disposal Scheme is in process of fulfilment, and, as soon as the necessary land has been acquired the work will be carried out.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the Schools is satisfactory.

It has only been necessary to close one School, (the infants') during the year. It was closed from March 25th for three weeks owing to the prevalence of Whooping Cough at that time.

The arrangements for the medical inspection of school children is in the hands of the School Medical Officer.

FOOD:-

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are no regulations in force. The number of cow-keepers and milk-sellers on the register is 7. The sanitary condition of milk-shops and cowhouses is good. They are regularly inspected. The conditions of supply are satisfactory.

(b) OTHER FOODS. No routine inspection is practiced. There are 4 slaughter-houses on the register. They are frequently inspected, and are in good sanitary condition. No carcasses have been condemned for Tuberculosis.

(c) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. There have been no prosecutions under this Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. There are no Factories in the district.

There are 8 Bakehouses on the Register. They are frequently inspected and are in good sanitary condition.

There is one underground bakehouse, (certificated by the Council), no common lodging-houses and no offensive trades.

During 1914, 37 inspections of workhouses have been made, but no written notices were found to be necessary.

In conclusion I beg to state that on the whole the conditions of life in your district are healthy, and, apart from the points to which I have drawn attention regarding the provision of an Isolation Hospital, etc., the condition of affairs affecting the Public Health are satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. L. DRAWBRIDGE.

